

DeIDOT Honors Second Class of Project SEARCH Graduates

Department of Transportation Secretary Jennifer Cohan, Delaware Chief Information Officer James Collins, Department of Education Secretary Susan Bunting, Secretary of Labor Cerron Cade, and Caesar Rodney School District Superintendent Kevin Fitzgerald celebrated the second class of Project SEARCH graduates at a ceremony Friday afternoon.

“We are so proud of these nine young men and what they accomplished this year, and we are grateful to our partners and the employees who have worked to make this program a success for the students,” **said Secretary of Transportation Jennifer Cohan.**

Project SEARCH provides real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills to help youths with disabilities make successful transitions from school to productive adult life. The program involves an extensive period of training and career exploration, innovative adaptations, long-term job coaching and continuous feedback from teachers, skills trainers and employers.

With DeIDOT, the interns participate for the entire school year and transition into different positions throughout the Department every 12 weeks to experience various job duties.

Upon completing the training program, students with intellectual disabilities are ready for employment in nontraditional, complex and rewarding jobs. All nine of this year’s graduates have been hired for jobs, including several within DeIDOT.

The program is made possible with the partnership amongst DeIDOT, Autism Delaware, Community Integrated Services, Caesar Rodney School District, the Department of Labor and Division

of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Project SEARCH is a National program that began at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in 1996 and has grown to over 300 sites across the United States and Europe. To learn more about Project SEARCH visit www.projectsearch.us.